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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

7 November 1951

Memorandum for the Director of Central Intelligence

Subject: The Current Situation in Burma

In NIE -36, "Prospects for Survival of a Non-Communist Regime in Burma," dated 1 August 1951, it was estimated that the Communists "will probably be able within the next year or two to achieve de facto control over a considerable area of northern Burma." There is now reliable new intelligence indicating that the Communists may achieve control over large areas of northern Burma within the next few months and in conjunction with the Karens and other dissidents gravely threaten the security of the Burmese Government within the next year. There is also an immediate danger that the left-wing faction within the Burma Socialist Party may oust Premier Thakin Nu and create conditions favorable for the development of Communist control at the highest levels of the government.

The evidence of this increased Communist threat is found in several recent reports [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The substance of these reports is as follows:

- a. Increased logistic support for Burmese Communists from Communist China;

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State Dept. review completed

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- b. The presence of considerable numbers of Chinese advisory personnel throughout northern Burma, including many with Communist military units;
- c. The training and equipping of substantial numbers of Burmese Communists in China;
- d. A general increase in the strength of Communist dissidents
- e. Communist progress in winning over the Karens;
- f. Increasing instability of the Thakin Nu regime with the prospect that it may soon be replaced by fellow-travellers closely associated with the Communists.

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The State Department has indicated in a recent message to the American Ambassador to Burma its growing concern

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over the deteriorating situation. The American Ambassador was urged to seek an audience with Thakin Nu and point out the consequences of failure to overcome the threatened insurgent attack.

If the Burmese Government fails to take prompt and effective measures against the insurgents and fails to reach an agreement with the Karens before they are committed to the Communists, the government's position will deteriorate rapidly and the Communists supported by other dissident elements may achieve control of Burma within the next year.

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